

CCSS Boarding – Principles and practice

The idea of 'managed independence' which underlies all aspects of College life comes into its own in our Boarding Houses. It is one of the reasons why we attract a substantial number of students who have never lived away from home before, as well as many with previous boarding experience.

The College is committed to ensuring that students who come to board at CCSS receive the domestic, pastoral and tutorial support necessary to promote their development as individuals, as members of the College, and as members of the community. We aim to ensure that students are provided with comfortable, safe and secure accommodation with suitable communal facilities and wholesome food. CCSS ensures ready access to all health-care agencies and a degree of supervision appropriate to the age group and to the purposes of a sixth-form College.

Our boarding houses not only provide a safe place for students to live and work, but also enable the development of important skills such as getting on with others, and striking the right balance between work and leisure. In this students are advised, helped and watched over by resident College House Managers. All CCSS house managers take their pastoral duties seriously, being presentable and professional in dealing with students, their parents, guardians, teaching and non-teaching colleagues. House managers act as role models for the students in their care and place the health, safety and welfare of the students foremost. House managers provide good day-to-day advice, guidance and encouragement to students.

We expect boarders at CCSS to develop a responsible attitude to the exercise of the relatively greater personal freedom of the Sixth-form. This is intended to provide a valuable half-way house between home or the more traditional boarding school and the more open experience of life beyond school - particularly at university. Respect for the beliefs of others and for their possessions is an important part of communal living.

Our boarding provision is regularly inspected, with areas such as catering and boarding staff being officially commended. However, boarding is not just about food and accommodation for our students. As ISI inspectors commented on their recent visit, our boarding "safeguards and promotes their welfare and encourages them to respect the values and beliefs of others".

GCSE and first-year A-level students join specific houses where the rules are suitable for the age of the year-groups concerned. Upper sixth and one-year A-level students live in 'final-year' Houses, where the regime reflects their greater experience and independence.

All students have their own study-bedroom. Room sizes vary from house to house but all include study space as well as bed, storage, etc. Most rooms have en-suite bathrooms and all have telephone lines and free broadband Internet access. All houses have common-rooms with digital TV and DVD player, and facilities for making tea, coffee and snacks.

We provide breakfast, lunch and evening meals seven days a week during term time prepared by the College's catering team. Food is wholesome and healthy (there is always a vegetarian choice), and the Catering Manager is very pleased to consider suggestions from students for additional or alternative dishes. We cater for most special dietary needs, from vegetarian to Halal. Just as we build the academic programme around each individual's needs, boarding can be as flexible. Some of our students are seven-day boarders, while others choose to stay for four or five nights.

All boarders are fully supported medically and have access to excellent medical care and guidance services if needed. A fully-qualified College Nurse is on site during normal hours and 24 hour medical care is accessible.

CCSS boarding seeks to establish and encourage a secure environment within which academic excellence flourishes, personal growth is supported and the life chances of all are enhanced in line with our values.